

(Model.)

G. B. SIEGENTHALER.
SHOE.

No. 249,410.

Patented Nov. 8, 1881.

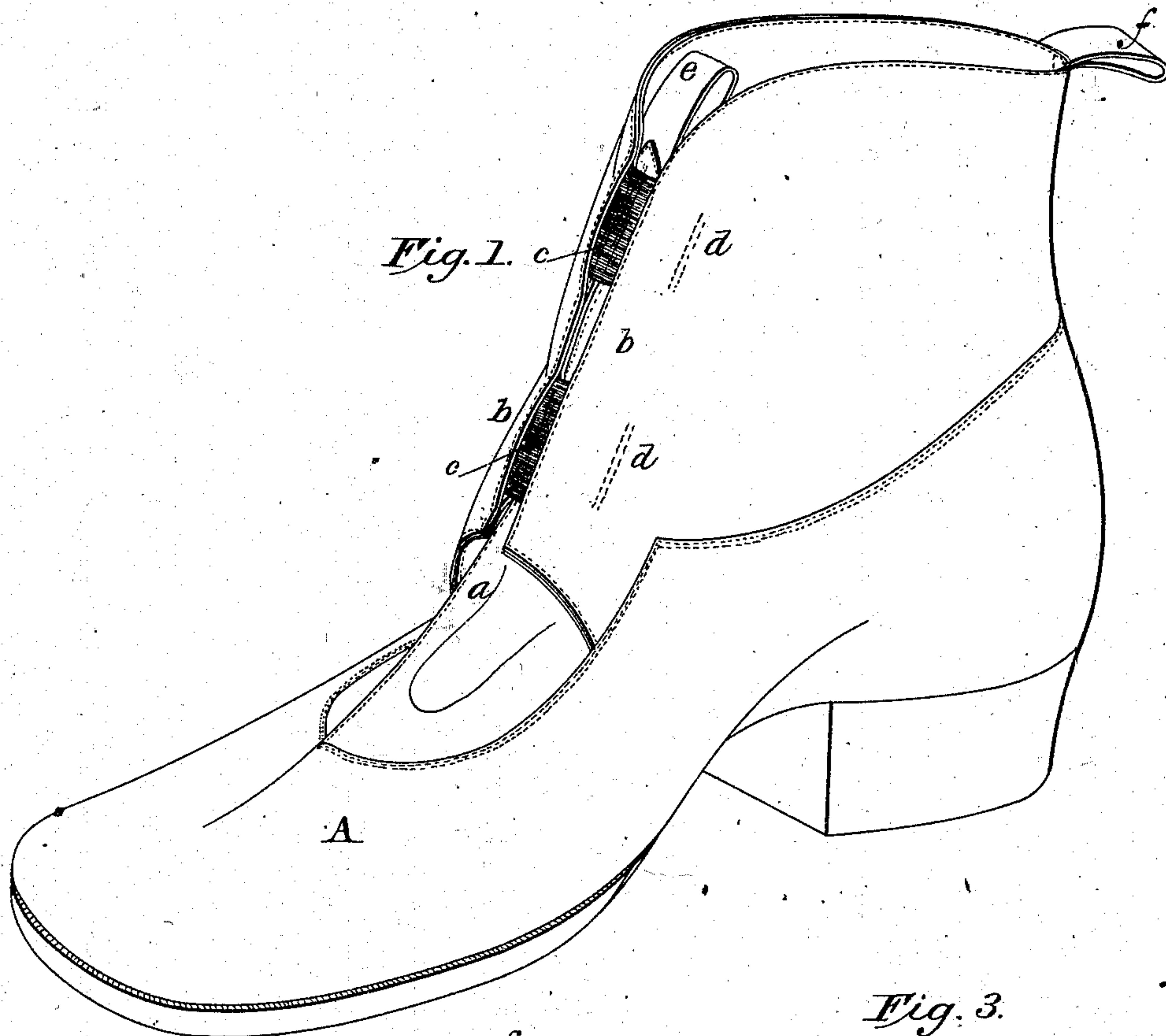


Fig. 2.

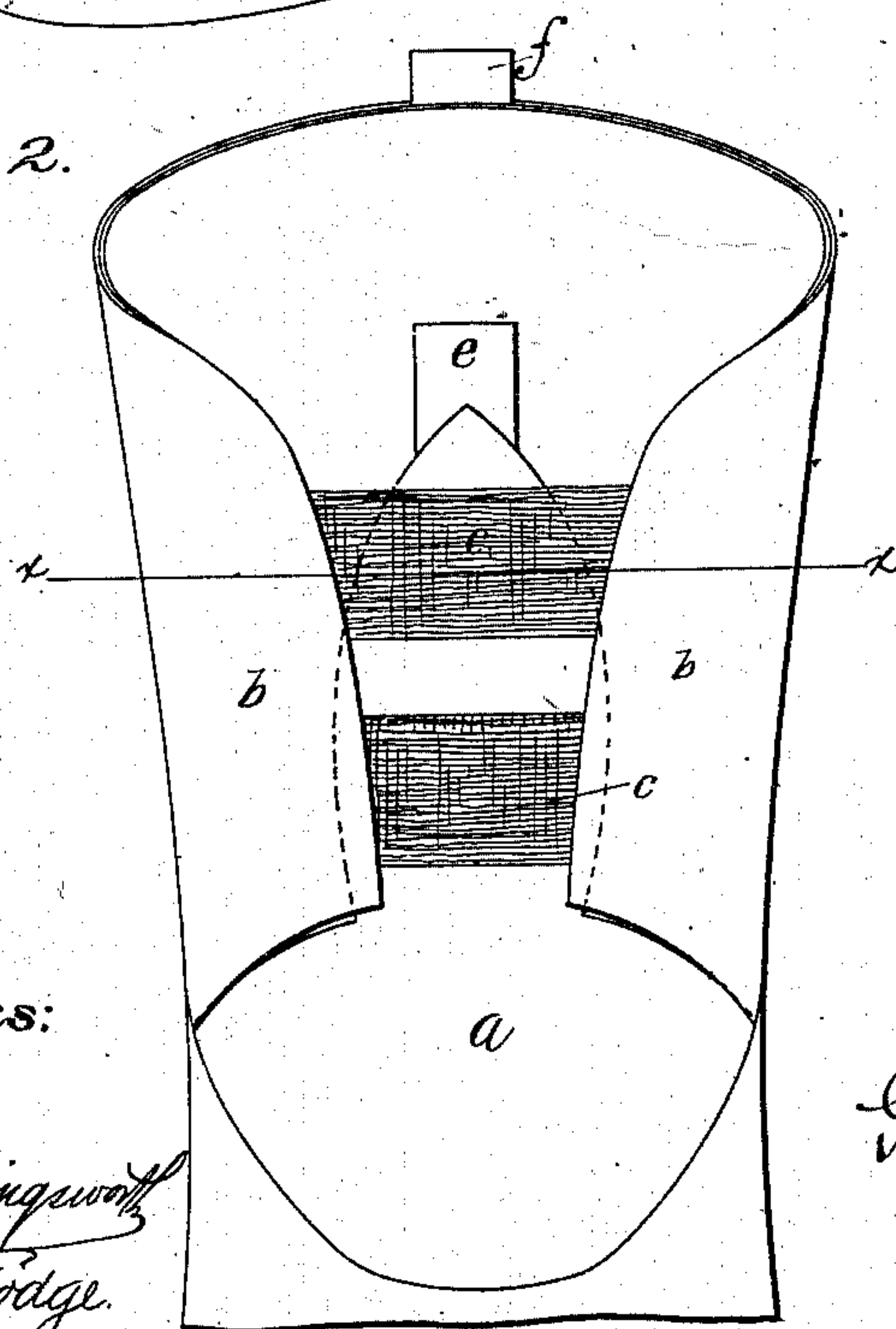
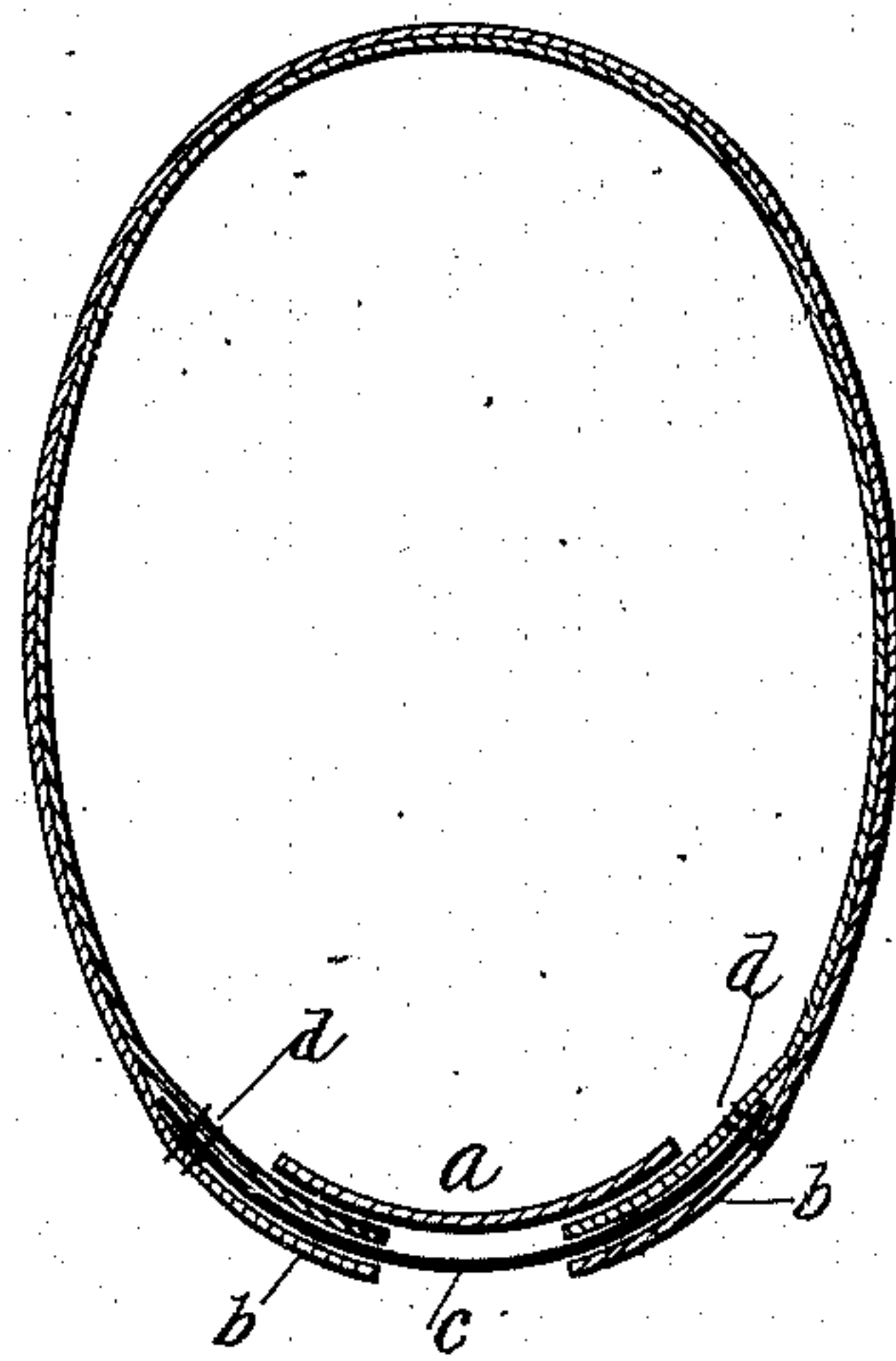


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

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Inventor.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE B. SIEGENTHALER, OF WOOSTER, OHIO.

SHOE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 249,410, dated November 8, 1881.

Application filed April 19, 1881. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, G. B. SIEGENTHALER, of Wooster, in the county of Wayne and State of Ohio, have invented certain Improvements in Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists in a shoe having side flaps arranged to close together at the front over and upon a central tongue, and united by means of elastic straps or gores, having their ends inserted and concealed within the flaps, the shoe being constructed with special reference to its easy application and removal, and to its being transformed into a laced or a strapped shoe at will.

Shoes having elastic gores inserted in their sides have been made in a great variety of forms, but have in practice been found subject to many serious objections.

The object of my invention is to provide a shoe which may be drawn on and off with the same facility as the ordinary gaiter, but which shall present a much neater appearance, exclude water more effectually, and withstand wear to better advantage.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of my improved shoe as it appears when in use. Fig. 2 is a view showing the front of the shoe drawn open, as in applying it to or removing it from the foot. Fig. 3 is a cross-section on the line *x x*, showing the manner in which the elastic gores are inserted and concealed.

A represents my shoe, having its upper cut in substantially the same manner as for an ordinary laced shoe, with a central tongue, *a*, and two side flaps, *b b*, arranged to close together at the front over or outside of the tongue. The straps or gores, of elastic webbing or similar elastic material, *c c*, lie transversely across the front of the shoe, uniting the two flaps *b b*, the ends of the elastic material being extended backward a considerable distance within pockets formed in the side flaps, and stitched or otherwise fastened at their ends thereto, as shown at *d d*. The pockets to receive the elastic material are formed between the inner and outer surfaces of the flaps, and the connection is such that the elas-

tic material may be extended freely, in order to permit the separation of the side flaps in drawing the shoe off or on the foot.

The shoe is provided, as shown, with two loops or straps, *e* and *f*, for drawing the same upon the foot, one being applied to the rear of the upper and the other to the top of the central tongue.

It will be noticed that the elastic material is entirely or nearly concealed by the flaps when the shoe is in its ordinary closed condition, as represented in Fig. 1, and that the flaps, drawn and held together by the elastic material, completely close the shoe, drawing the same down smoothly and snugly across the front of the foot. If at any time the elastic material should give way, or it should be desired to adapt the shoe for the use of lacing strings or straps, it is only necessary to remove the elastic material and provide the flaps with straps or with eyelets, as preferred.

My improvement may be applied with equal facility to high and low shoes and to overshoes.

The exact form of the flaps is not material, provided they are arranged to be drawn together at the front over and upon a central tongue, and have the elastic material introduced into their edges in the manner shown.

The central tongue used in connection with the flaps and elastic gores is of special importance, inasmuch as it co-operates with the other parts in closing the front, and serves to prevent snow, water, &c., from finding their way into the shoe.

I am also aware that elastic straps have been inserted in the fronts of shoes in different forms, and my invention is limited to the construction and combination shown.

I am aware that elastic straps have been applied to the side and to the front of shoes, and this I do not claim. I am not aware, however, that any one has heretofore combined the central tongue, the side flaps closing over the tongue, and the elastic straps. This combination permits the shoe to adapt itself to feet varying widely in the height of the instep, without leaving an opening or exposing the stocking, and also admits of the opening being carried to a low point and effectually

closed against the entrance of snow, dust, &c.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

5 1. As an improved article of manufacture, the shoe provided with the central tongue, *a*, the two side flaps, *b*, overlapping the tongue, and provided with the pockets, and the elastic straps secured at their ends in the rear
10 sides of the pockets.

2. The improved shoe provided with the

central tongue, the side flaps having pockets, the elastic straps secured in the latter, and the loops *e* and *f*, one of which is attached to the tongue for use in stretching said elastic straps 15 and separating the flaps, and thereby opening the shoe to facilitate drawing it on the foot, as hereinbefore set forth.

GEORGE B. SIEGENTHALER.

Witnesses:

HIRAM B. SWARTZ,

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